

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing security for an Internet co-location facility, the method comprising:

 providing a lobby in the facility connected by a tunnel to a customer area in the facility;

 providing a co-location area in the facility adjacent to the customer area, the co-location area including a plurality of cabinets located in cages;

 controlling access to the lobby, the customer area, the co-location area, and the cages using a plurality of biometrics readers, each biometrics reader coupled to an access control system;

 connecting a computer including a central software program to the access control system, the central software program configured to monitor the use of the plurality of biometrics readers;

 connecting a server including a database to the central software program, the database configured to receive information from the central software program regarding the use of the plurality of biometrics readers and to transmit this information to co-located members through a network; and

 providing a user-interface to allow co-located members to schedule visits to the facility through the network to the database on the server.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a buffer surrounding the

perimeter of the Internet co-location facility, the buffer serving as a physical barrier between the facility and a parking lot of the facility.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing an input device coupled to each of the plurality of biometrics readers for entry of a visitor identification code of a visitor, a match between the visitor identification code and the visitor's personal identification characteristics triggering the access control system to allow the visitor to gain access to designated areas in the facility.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a transmitter coupled to the access control system to transmit the information regarding the use of the plurality of biometrics readers to the central software program, the information regarding the use of the plurality of biometrics readers including a visitor identification code and the date and time the visitor used one or more of the plurality of biometrics readers.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein providing a user-interface to allow co-located members to schedule visits to the facility through the network to the database on the server includes transmitting information to the database regarding the date, time, expected duration of a scheduled visit, and a visit identification number for the scheduled visit.
6. The method of claim 5 further comprising providing a transmitter in the server, the transmitter configured to transmit information regarding the scheduled visits to the central software program through a network.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a front entrance biometrics reader for initial access to the facility, the use of the front entrance biometrics reader triggering the central software program to transmit information regarding the use of the front entrance biometrics reader to a lobby workstation.
8. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a user interface for triggering the central software program to combine a visitor identification code with a visit identification number for the scheduled visit.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the triggering of the central software program to combine the visitor identification code with the visit identification number authorizes the visitor to progress through the remainder of the facility using the plurality of the biometrics readers.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein biometrics readers are coupled to a first door and a second door of the tunnel, the first door and the second door opening in sequence in response to the use of the biometrics readers such that only one of the doors remains open at a time.
11. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting information regarding the use of the plurality of biometrics readers by the central software program through the network to the database on the server, the information including a visitor identification code, a visit identification number for the scheduled visit, and the date and time a visitor used any one of the plurality of biometrics readers.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising accessing the information in the database regarding a visitor's use of the plurality of biometrics readers by using a web-based interface accessible from one or more remote computer terminals connected to the Internet.
13. An Internet co-location facility security system, comprising:
- a lobby in the facility connected by a tunnel to a customer area in the facility;
 - a co-location area in the facility adjacent to the customer area, the co-location area including a plurality of cabinets located in cages;
 - a plurality of biometrics readers coupled to the lobby, the customer area, the co-location area, and the cages, each biometrics reader connected to an access control system;
 - a computer including a central software program connected to the access control system, the central software program configured to monitor the use of the plurality of biometrics readers;
 - a server including a database connected to the central software program, the database configured to receive information from the central software program regarding the use of the plurality of biometrics readers and to transmit this information to co-located members through the Internet; and
 - a web-based interface configured to allow co-located members to schedule visits to the facility through the Internet to the database on the server.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein a buffer surrounds the perimeter of the Internet co-location facility, the buffer serving as a physical barrier between the facility and a parking lot of the facility.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein an input device is coupled to each of the plurality of biometric readers for entry of a visitor identification code of a visitor, a match between the visitor identification code and the visitor's personal identification characteristics triggering the access control system to allow the visitor to gain access to designated areas in the facility.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein a transmitter is coupled to the access control system to transmit information regarding the use of the plurality of biometrics readers to the central software program, the information regarding the use of the plurality of biometrics readers including a visitor identification code and the date and time the visitor used one or more of the plurality of biometrics readers.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein information regarding the scheduled visits transmitted by the co-located members through the Internet to the database on the server includes the date, time, expected duration of a scheduled visit, and a visit identification number for the scheduled visit.

18. The system of claim 13 wherein the server further includes a transmitter configured to transmit information regarding the scheduled visits to the central software program through the network.

19. The system of claim 13 further including a front entrance biometrics reader for initial access to the facility, the use of the front entrance biometrics reader triggering the central software program to transmit information regarding the use of the front entrance biometrics reader to a lobby workstation.

20. The system of claim 13 further including a user interface for triggering the central software program to combine a visitor's identification code with a visit identification number for the scheduled visit.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the user interface authorizes a visitor to progress through the remainder of the facility using the plurality of biometrics readers.

22. The system of claim 13 wherein a biometrics reader is coupled to a first door and a second door of the tunnel, the first door and the second door opening in sequence in response to the use of the biometrics readers such that only one of the doors remains open at a time.

23. The system of claim 13 wherein information regarding the use of the plurality of biometrics readers is transmitted by the central software program through the network to the database on the server, the information including a visitor identification code, a visit identification number for the scheduled visit, and the date and time a visitor used any one of the plurality of biometrics readers.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the co-located members may access the information in the database regarding a visitor's use of the plurality of biometrics readers by

using the web-based interface accessible from one or more remote computer terminals connected to the Internet.